

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Application of:	David Zahner	Patent Application
Serial No.:	09/916,603	
Filing Date:	7/27/2001	
Art Unit:	3765	
Examiner:	James G. Smith	
For:	Apparatus for hanging articles of clothing	
Attorney Docket No.:	4042.026.200	

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Remarks

Receipt is acknowledged of the Office Action dated July 14, 2003 in the above-captioned matter. Reconsideration of the application and a two month extension of the time provided for response are requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge all amounts that may be due, including but not limited to the fees for the extension and the new claims, to Deposit Account No. 50-1604.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected the application based on U.S. Patent No. 6,212,688 issued to Leslie. To facilitate an allowance, Applicant has amended the application as set forth above, while reserving the right to pursue the subject matter of the prior independent or dependent claims in a continuation application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

As amended, the application claims a flap of material for use as part of an article of clothing (and clothing articles containing such a flap), wherein the flap has a fastener ring for hanging the clothing article. As amended, the ring is integrated into the material of a flap of clothing such that the ring itself

is part of the flap, partially or totally overlapping with the material of that flap.

This is not taught or suggested by Leslie. Leslie teaches a conventional clip, wherein the clip is attached at its bottom to a ring, with that ring then being attached to a strap of an article of clothing. Leslie does not teach a ring wherein the ring is integrated into the flap.

The present invention is designed such that it can be used with rods of any sort, including, but not limited to, clothing rods mounted in a closet, towel rods and so forth. Furthermore, the invention is sufficiently versatile such that it can be used to hang the clothing on other supports as well, such as hooks or so forth. Leslie does not or teach a device which has those capabilities or versatility.

For example, one significant advantage of the present invention is that it is designed to be easily used with mounted rods (e.g. clothing rods in a closet or other rods), and with other supports (e.g. hooks, etc.). The clip of Leslie is intended for use with a ring 18. *See e.g.*, col. 3, lines 1-4. There is no teaching or suggestion in Leslie that the clip therein is intended for use with a rod. Were an attempt even made to use the Leslie article with a rod (contrary to the intent of Leslie), an extremely large and bulky clip would have to be provided, particularly if the clip were to be able to attach to the traditional clothing rods of the size normally used in the current art. If integrated into an article of clothing such as a coat, for example, such a clip would have to dangle from the neck region to hang the coat upright from the rod. To attach to the rod, the top of the clip would have to be at least the size of the top of a conventional hanger. That top of the clip would also have to be elongated to some degree or be sufficiently large such that the moving bar (to open and close the clip) would not be blocked by the rod. Such a large dangling clip from the neck of a coat would be unwieldy and unacceptable to most users.

In contrast to the design set forth in Leslie, the ring provided herein is integrated into a flap for an article of clothing, such that it is a part of said flap. Such a ring can, therefore, be made coextensive with an inner or outer surface of the clothing, overlapping with that surface to make the fastener relatively unobtrusive. Furthermore, the ring can be made flat if desired, so that it further "blends" in with a surface of the coat or other clothing article.

Such an integrated fastener – which overlaps with a clothing surface and therefore can

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aesthetically blend in with it – is not taught or suggested in the Leslie reference in any fashion. Leslie does not teach or suggest a fastener which is part of the flap of clothing itself.

The present invention therefore allows a more aesthetic and useful article than the Leslie article. This article can be used with coats, shirts, pants, athletic wear, and a wide variety of other clothing articles for hanging them up whether on a clothing rod or another item in an aesthetic and non-bulky fashion which is believed to be superior to the Leslie clip.

In addition to the above, it is submitted that the dependent claims further present additional patentable limitations as well. For example, the different types of slits claimed are not taught or suggested by Leslie. Nor is the use of a slit which intersects with the edge of the flap material taught, or so forth.

Lastly, several changes have been made to the prior version of the claims to broaden them further, in view of the fact that the features claimed are not believed to be taught or suggested in any of the art of record. For example, a flap can be provided as an accessory that attaches to the clothing, or clothing can be provided with the flap as part of it. Likewise, the fastener of the invention is sufficiently versatile that the same fastener can be used for hanging the clothing from a rod (including rods of various sizes if desired) or from another desired support.

Accordingly, it is believed that the amended claims are fully patentable. Favorable action on the application and an allowance of all of the pending claims is respectfully requested and believed fully warranted.

Dated: December 15, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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